

REMARKS

Claim 20 is pending in the application. In the instant response Claim 20 has been amended and new claims 22-29 have been added. Support for these amendments is found throughout the specification and as indicated below. It is believed that no new matter has been introduced.

Examiner Myers kindly contacted the undersigned agent on 09 April 2008 to discuss possible amendments to render pending claim 20 allowable. The amendments suggested by Examiner Myers have been incorporated into amended claim 20.

New claims 21-29 have been added to more clearly express that which applicants consider their invention. Support for claims 21-29 is found throughout the specification as filed. For example, support for new claim 21 is found in paragraph [0175], which describes method useful for detection of polynucleotides. Support for new claims 22-24 is found, for example, at paragraphs [0096]-[0099], which describe methods of reducing mRNA stability. Support for new claims 25-28 is found, for example, at paragraph [0181]-[0183], which describe methods of screening for inhibitors of SFRP1 and specifically mention small molecules and bioactive agents, the latter of which include pharmaceutical compositions. New claim 29 is supported, for example at paragraph [0113], which describes agents that improve stability or solubility of polynucleotides.

35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, new matter rejections

Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing new matter.

According to the Office Action, the specification provides support for human orthologs of the mouse SFRP1 gene, but does not provide support for the expression "a mouse ortholog of SFRP1 (SEQ ID NO:15) mRNA" (See page 2 of the Office Action).

Claim 20 has been amended to recite a method of determining if an agent modulates expression of a mouse SFRP1 mRNA in kidney samples of the mouse by comparing expression of SFRP1 before and after administering said agent. Support for this amendment is found throughout the specification as filed, for example at paragraph [0026].

Applicants believe that the amendments to claim 20 obviate the above rejections. Withdrawal of the written description rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st paragraph, of claim 20 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of record have been overcome, and the Application is now in form of allowance. Allowance of the amended Application on the merits is respectfully requested. If any outstanding issue remains, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned agent for a discussion of a mutually agreeable solution.

During the pendency of this application please treat any reply requiring a petition for extension of time for its timely submission as containing a request therefore for the appropriate length of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge all required extension of time fees during the entire pendency of this application to Deposit Account No. 01-1425.



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